various other resources to meet up the demand of power in view of a shortfall of thousands megawatts of power and the State depending more and more on power generating companies like NTPC, the NHPC and others, especially?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): A capacity addition target of 41,110 MW has been set for 10th Plan for power sector. In addition, 10th Plan capacity addition target from renewable sources is set at 3075 MW, against which a total power generation capacity of 1268 MW has been installed as on 31.03.2004.

The steps initiated for development and utilization of non conventional sources, *inter-alia*, include:

- Providing financial and fiscal incentives for promotion, development and utilization of non-conventional energy sources.
- Policies for promotion of power generation from non-conventional energy sources have also been introduced in several States.
- 18,000 un-electrified villages in remote areas, where electrification by conventional grid is not considered feasible, have been identified under Remote Villages Electrification programme for electrification using non-conventional energy sources.

Diversification by Power Grid Corporation into the Telecom Sector

841. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Power Grid Corporation is diversifying into the Telecom Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Power Grid Corporation has already invested Rs. 1000 crores into 20000 kms. of Telecom Network;

(d) whether Government is aware that the 20000 kms. of telecom network is under-utilized; and

(e) the steps proposed to review such non-core activities of the Power Grid Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (c) The Government of India accorded investment approval in March, 2003 for implementation of the project of "Establishment of Backbone Telecom Network" by Power grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) at an estimated cost of Rs. 934.23 crore with assistance from the World Bank. The project envisages entry of PGCIL into Telecom Communication Sector as infrastructure provider by leasing end-to-end bandwidth. The power transmission lines owned by PGCIL provide excellent connectivity throughout the country. The project envisages to exploit the huge transmission infrastructure and utilization of spare fibre capacity of Unified Load Despath and Communication (ULDC) projects telecom business. The Telecom Backbone Network being developed by PGCIL will connect all metros and major towns/cities in the country.

(d) The project of Establishment of Backbone Telecom Network is still under implementation by PGCIL. However, the telecom links already established are under commercial operation and services are being provided by PGCIL to various customers like International Long Distance Operators, National Long distance Operators, Cellular Operator, Basic Service Providers, Internet Service Providers, etc.

(e) Although power transmission is the core business of PGCIL, the diversification into telecom would enable the Corporation to utilize their infrastructure effectively. Additional resources generated through the diversification into telecom business would be ploughed back into transmission business to augment the much needed resources to establish National Grid and would facilitate availability of power at cheaper rates to the consumer.

Power generation during Tenth Plan

842. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tenth Plan target of 41,000 MW will be achieved by Government;

(b) to what extent the private sector will contribute to the target of 41000 MW for the Tenth Plan;

(c) whether Government propose to revise the target downwards for the Government sector;

(d) if so, what are the bottlenecks which might lead to reducing the target of 41000 MW for the Tenth Plan; and